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**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

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Arab Military Activity in Palestine			2 Jan 53

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Palestine

Syrian reactions to the cease-fire

The following dated the end of July, comes from our source ROM.

i. When the Prime Minister Jamil Mardam accepted the cease-fire on behalf of Syria, the National Party urged on by the MUFTI, sent Nabil Azma and other Moslem leaders to see President Kuwatli to protest. They asserted that the country no longer had faith in its leaders, and demanded that the Mardam Government be replaced by one of "National character". Kuwatli defended Mardam, on the grounds that the responsibility for accepting the cease-fire order belonged to the Hashemites.

ii. Privately President Shukri Arwatli was very depressed by the Arab acceptance of the cease-fire order. He said that thanks to the British and Hashemites he had been placed in a very awkward situation and dared not tell the public the truth. The Security Council treated the Arabs as lackeys and the Jews despised them. The result was the seven Arab States with 70 million inhabitants could not secure their legitimate claims. Partition was being carried out under their noses, and Israel grew steadily stronger. The Arabs had come to realise that their interests could only be defended by force but the British barred the way to their obtaining arms and had stopped Arab attempts to obtain arms in Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium, Greece, Turkey, Spain and in Great Britain itself.

iii. Many people had asked why the Arabs did not turn to Russia for help. They forgot that the Russians were helping the Jews more than the Anglo-Saxons. Moreover recourse to Russia would only result in the wiping out of the Arab World completely.

iv. The MUFTI had proposed that the Arab States should officially declare their neutrality whilst secretly inciting their peoples to act", but he had no solution to offer as to how they could obtain arms in order to carry out this programme.

2. The following comes from our source Jet.

i. Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, discussed at Beirut on 21st July with the Lebanese General Staff, the possibilities of reopening hostilities against the Jews. The Lebanese G. S. declared that the only sane policy for the Arabs was to accept provisionally the de facto existence of the Jewish state, and to employ the next few years in building up the Arab armies into efficient and well-equipped fighting units.

ii. Azzam Pasha spread and undertook to impress this view on members of the Arab League."

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